

STATINTL

U2 Pilot in Russia's 'Best' Prison**Powers Pastes Envelopes in Large Cell**

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A heavy-set young man sits in a Soviet prison cell folding envelopes and pasting them together. A year ago his name and photograph were on front pages of newspapers around the world.

The man is Francis Gary Powers, the former American U2 pilot shot down on a spy run over the Soviet Union.

Powers today marks the first anniversary of the sensational Moscow spy trial that sent him to prison for 10 years.

An old Russian saying is "a prison isn't a health resort." Vladimir prison, 150 miles east of Moscow alongside the Trans-Siberian railroad tracks, cannot be labeled a resort, but it offers the former \$30,000-a-year airman a "model" prison's luxuries that few other Soviet prisoners enjoy.

The czars used Vladimir prison 200 years ago. Prisoners with iron balls chained to their feet once limped toward Siberia along the railroad tracks running past Powers' barred but shutterless windows.

The Bolsheviks made Vladimir their model prison. Only the top political prisoners and captured Nazi field marshals and generals filled its large cells, used its well-stocked library (Russian, English, German and French classical literature) and played chess and dominoes.

Powers is allowed to correspond and receive gift parcels from his wife, Barbara, and his parents. Like Vladimir's other prisoners, he has no radio or television.

Every 10 days he gets fresh



Francis Gary Powers
... not a health resort

underwear, a shower, linen and a shave. The prisoners can supplement their three meals a day with purchases at the prison commissary.

There is no chaplain, but a political officer is there to listen to personal problems.

Repeated U.S. Embassy requests to see Powers have been refused. But Western observers here said Powers is in the best Soviet prison. The question is for how long.

According to Soviet penal

practice, Powers will spend two more years making envelopes — a job which is a prison privilege since inmates must be given permission to work.

After three years at Vladimir, Powers will be eligible for transfer to a labor colony. Such colonies give prisoners more freedom — free movement within their camps, a social life, sports, concerts, amateur theatricals.

Powers becomes eligible for parole after serving two-thirds of his term.

Rumors heard abroad that Powers might soon be freed appear groundless. Procurator General Roman Rudenko, who prosecuted Powers, recently told Western newsmen he knew nothing of any changes in Powers' fate. Only the unexpected — probably preceded by an extreme increase in Soviet-American goodwill — could set him free sooner.

Barring that, observers said Powers' only possible other chance would be a diplomatic

exchange for some Soviet citizen jailed in the

United States, such as convicted spy Col. Rudolf Abel.